

energy of elastic spheres alone may suffice to account for their kinetic conditions in many respects.

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SOCIETIES AND ACADEMIES

THE ANTHROPOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

The 434th regular meeting of the society was held October 12, 1909, in the West Hall of the University Building, George Washington University, with President Fewkes in the chair.

The paper of the evening was by Dr. Ales Hrdlicka, whose subject was "The Anthropology of Egypt in the Light of Recent Observations." This dealt mainly with the results of Dr. Hrdlicka's expedition to Egypt, carried out during the first part of the current year under the auspices of the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the National Museum. The expedition brought, besides other results, very important additions to the skeletal collection in the National Museum.

The speaker, after pointing out the importance to anthropology of studies on the Egyptians, and mentioning the important work that has been and is being done in Egyptian research and exploration by American men of science, particularly Breasted, Reisner, Lythgoe and Davis, proceeded to discuss the results of recent investigations on well identified skeletal remains from that country, ranging from the earliest to the latest periods, and also the results of his examinations of the living remnants of the Egyptians.

The principal facts brought out were as follows:

Contrary to the hitherto prevailing opinion, there were, in the course of time, marked changes in the physique, particularly the form of the skull, of the Egyptians, the ancient crania being, on the average, decidedly longer and narrower than those of the later periods.

The Egyptians originated, in all probability, from more than one stream of anthropologically related people, the principal elements being Libyan and Puntite or Arabian.

Negro admixture was very small up to the time of the empire. A more noticeable addition consisted of a brachycephalic strain coming probably from Asia Minor. This is traceable from the earliest times and became important during the Greek and Roman occupation.

The Egyptians were light to medium brown in color, usually with black, straight to slightly curly hair, a moderate stature and muscular development. They approached closely in all their important features the north Africans and south-

western Asiatics and with these the European dolichocephalic whites.

At the present time the ancient Egyptians may be considered as practically extinct or rather obliterated. The actual population of the country is an amalgamation of the original inhabitants with the Arabs, Negroes and many elements from the northwest, north and northeast of the Nile Valley.

In certain localities traces of the old Egyptians still can be recognized. This seems to be principally the case in the great oasis. A series of 155 natives of this oasis were closely studied, also photographed. The data are being prepared for publication.

The paper was discussed by Professor Holmes, Dr. Casanowicz, Dr. Folkmar, Dr. Hough, Dr. Fewkes and others.

JOHN R. SWANTON,

Secretary

THE AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY. NEW YORK SECTION

The first regular meeting of the session of 1909-10 was held at the Chemists Club on October 8.

Dr. Morris Loeb, in taking the chair, made a short address. He spoke of the plans of the section for the approaching session and especially commented upon the desirability of a chemical museum, expressing the hope that it might be housed together with the society library in the new quarters of the Chemists' Club.

Dr. A. P. Hallock gave a report of the general meeting of the society at Detroit, calling attention to the hospitality and very enjoyable entertainment offered by the Detroit Section.

Professor M. A. Rosanoff, of Clark University, read a paper by C. W. Easley and himself "On the Partial Vapor Pressures of Binary Mixtures." This paper is published in full in the current number of the *Journal of the American Chemical Society*.

Professor H. C. Sherman presented "A Source of Error in the Examination of Foods for Salicylic Acid."

The members present were invited to attend a special meeting of the Chemists' Club held after the adjournment of the meeting of the section. At this meeting the plans of the building committee for a larger and more adequate club house were adopted, insuring a home for the chemists of New York unexcelled in this country or probably abroad.

C. M. JOYCE,

Secretary